CLAIMS

- [001] A household appliance having at least one sensor (5, 6, 8) for detecting at least one operating parameter of the household appliance, a memory (9) connected permanently to the sensor (5, 6, 8) for periodically recording the value of the operating parameter detected by the sensor (5, 6, 8) and an interface (11, 13) for reading out the content of the memory.
- [002] The household appliance according to claim 1, wherein the first interface (13) is an interface to a data network, especially to a telephone network.
- [003] The household appliance according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the first interface (13) is cordless.
- [004] The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the memory (9) is built in a housing of the household appliance.
- [005] The household appliance according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it is a refrigerating device, a dishwashing machine or a washing machine.
- [006] A method for determining a cause of failure on a household appliance, comprising the steps:

 periodically detecting at least one operating parameter of the household appliance and recording the detected value in a memory at least during normal operation of the household appliance;

 reading out the memory (9) in the case of a fault;

 tracing the cause of the fault from the parameter values which have been read out.

Attorney Docket No.: 2003P01911WOUS

-8-

- [007] The method according to claim 6, wherein the recorded parameter values are deleted after a predetermined storage time and the released memory (9) is overwritten.
- [008] The method according to claim 6, wherein the recorded parameter values are decimated after a first predetermined storage time and deleted after a second predetermined storage time.
- [009] The method according to any one of claims 6 to 8, characterised in that the recorded parameter values are transferred to a centre to carry out step c).